

**Directorate for Biological Sciences
Office of the Assistant Director
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 605
Arlington, VA 22230**

MEMORANDUM

January 6, 2011

TO: Dr. Clifford Gabriel
Interim Director
Office of Integrative Activities

FROM: Joann Roskoski
Acting Assistant Director
Directorate for Biological Sciences

Joann Roskoski

SUBJECT: Report of the Committee of Visitors for the Plant Genome Research Program
within the Directorate for Biological Sciences

Please find attached the report of the Committee of Visitors (COV) for the Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) within the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO).

The COV report was discussed and accepted at the meeting of the BIO Advisory Committee (BIO AC) held October 6-7, 2010, in Boulder, CO. In addition to the COV report, please find attached BIO's formal response to the COV's recommendations, and membership lists for the BIO AC and COV.

The COV comprised eight members, including the chair and BIO AC representative. The membership represented a broad representation of the scientific areas supported by PGRP, including genomics, plant development, light regulation, epigenetics, transposon biology, metal uptake, plant cell walls, abiotic stress, marker assisted breeding, quantitative genetics, high-throughput imaging, bioinformatics, and computational analysis. The COV was composed of four men and four women, drawn from a range of institutions including a Primarily Undergraduate Institution, located across the country, including two EPSCoR States. It also included an under-represented minority, and a representative from industry. Four of the members of the COV had no experience as a panelist in PGRP, and six members of the COV had not received past funding from PGRP. The sample of proposals was selected to avoid institutional conflicts with the COV members. Individual conflicts of interest were dealt with by blocking access to any proposals with which specific members were conflicted.

Attachments

Cc: Subra Suresh, OD
Cora Marrett, OD
Martha A. Rubenstein, BFA
Amy A. Northcutt, OIRM
Allison C. Lerner, OIG